



Concordia University to host inaugural women's ice hockey championship

Concordia University in Montreal was named as the site of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union's (CIAU) inaugural women's ice hockey championship, which will be held Feb. 26 to March 1, 1998.

The announcement was made late this afternoon by CIAU president Liz Hoffman at the organization's annual general meeting in Bromont, Que.

"I am especially happy to announce that Concordia University will host the first event," Hoffman said. "The history of women's hockey at Concordia is extensive, the success of the Theresa Humes tournament is widely acknowledged and the visibility of the overall program were all factors that led to Concordia's bid being accepted by the selection committee."

Harry Zarins, Concordia's Director of Recreation and Athletics, was ecstatic upon receiving the good news.

"I'm happy and I'm proud," he said from the AGM in Bromont. "It's a great honor for our institution to host such a historic event. At the same time, at the risk of seeming immodest, I believe Concordia is deserving of this opportunity."

The Concordia women's hockey program celebrates its 31st anniversary this season. It is considered by many to be the top program in North America. Concordia's accomplishments over the last four years include a 129-21-20 record for a winning percentage of .818. This includes a 37-0-4 record versus American university teams and a 2-2-3 record versus international competition like the Russian and Swedish national teams.

Les Lawton, head coach of the Concordia women's hockey team, and Kathleen Casey, a member of the Friends of Concordia's Women's Hockey, will run the organizing committee.

"It's always been a dream of mine to take Concordia to a national championship tournament," Lawton said. "This is a huge step forward for women's hockey. As icing on the cake, we have the opportunity to compete for a national title on home ice."

It will be a six-team tournament, with two teams from Quebec, two teams from Ontario, one from the West and one from the East. There will be two pools of three teams. The winners of each pool will advance to the gold medal game, which will be held on Sunday, March 1 at 3 p.m.

For information call Concordia sports information and publications coordinator Catherine Grace at (514) 848-3862.

Harry Zarins and Liz Hoffman may be reached at Auberge Bromont until mid-day Saturday. The phone number is 1-888-276-6668.

Les Lawton can be reached at home at (514) 631-9126 or in the office on Monday at (514) 848-3866.